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Trail Creek Mines,

BRITISH COLUMBIA,

THEIR HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT,

—WITH A—

DESCRIPTION OF THE MINING LAWS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA,

A SUPPLEMENT TO

J. A. KIRK'S MAP

—OF THE—

TRAIL CREEK MINING CAMP

1896.

THE COLONIST PRESSES.

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VICTORIA, B. C.

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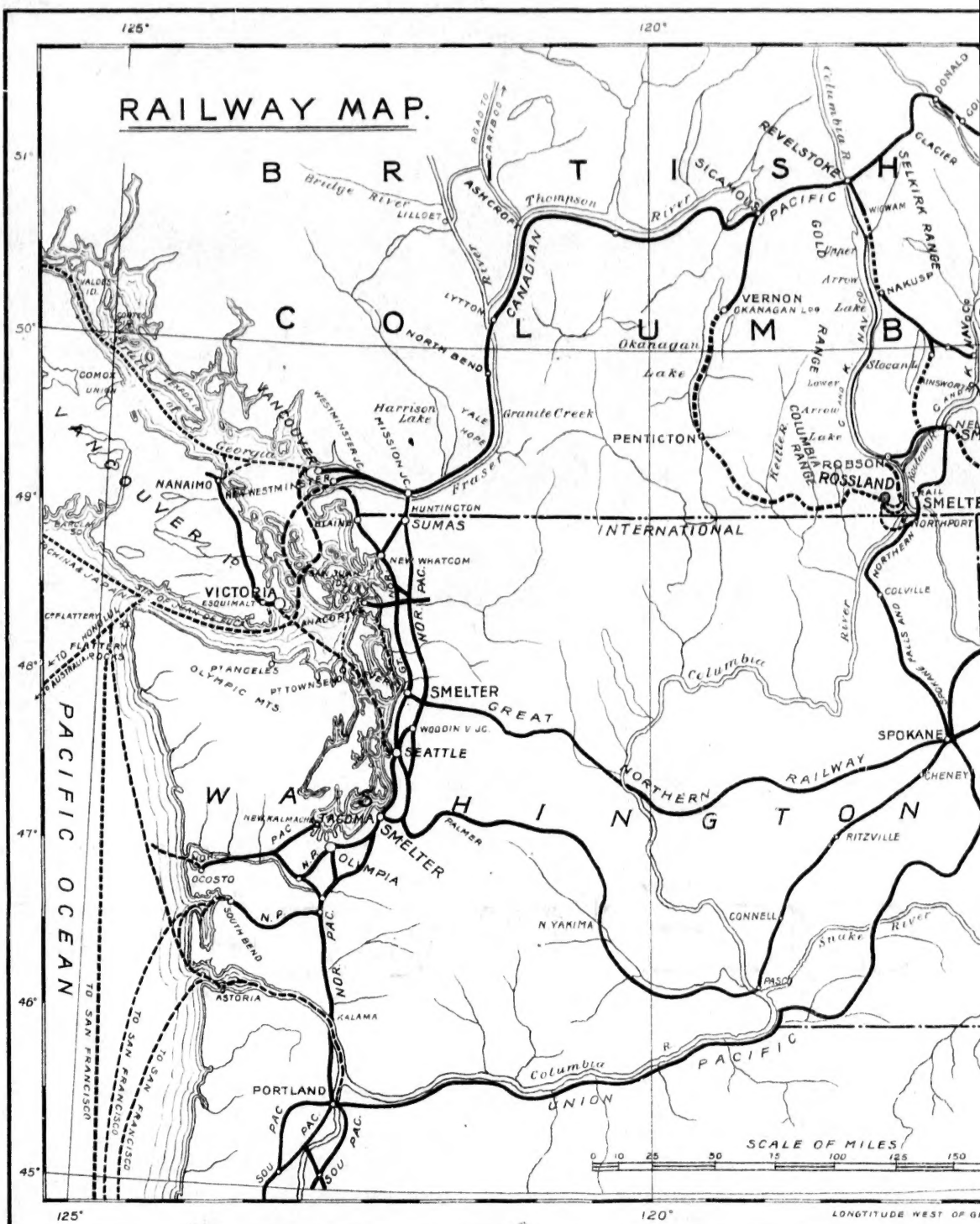
INTRODUCTION.

A MAP of a portion of the earth's surface usually shews the physical features, political and statutory divisions, routes of transportation and other general information of the area delineated.

These details are of value to a business man only as their relations to the development of the resources of the country are understood.

Having this in view, as well as the numerous enquiries that are being made respecting the Trail Creek Mining Camp, it has been considered fitting to supplement the first published maps of the camp with descriptive letterpress.

Exaggeration has been avoided, and only authenticated information given.



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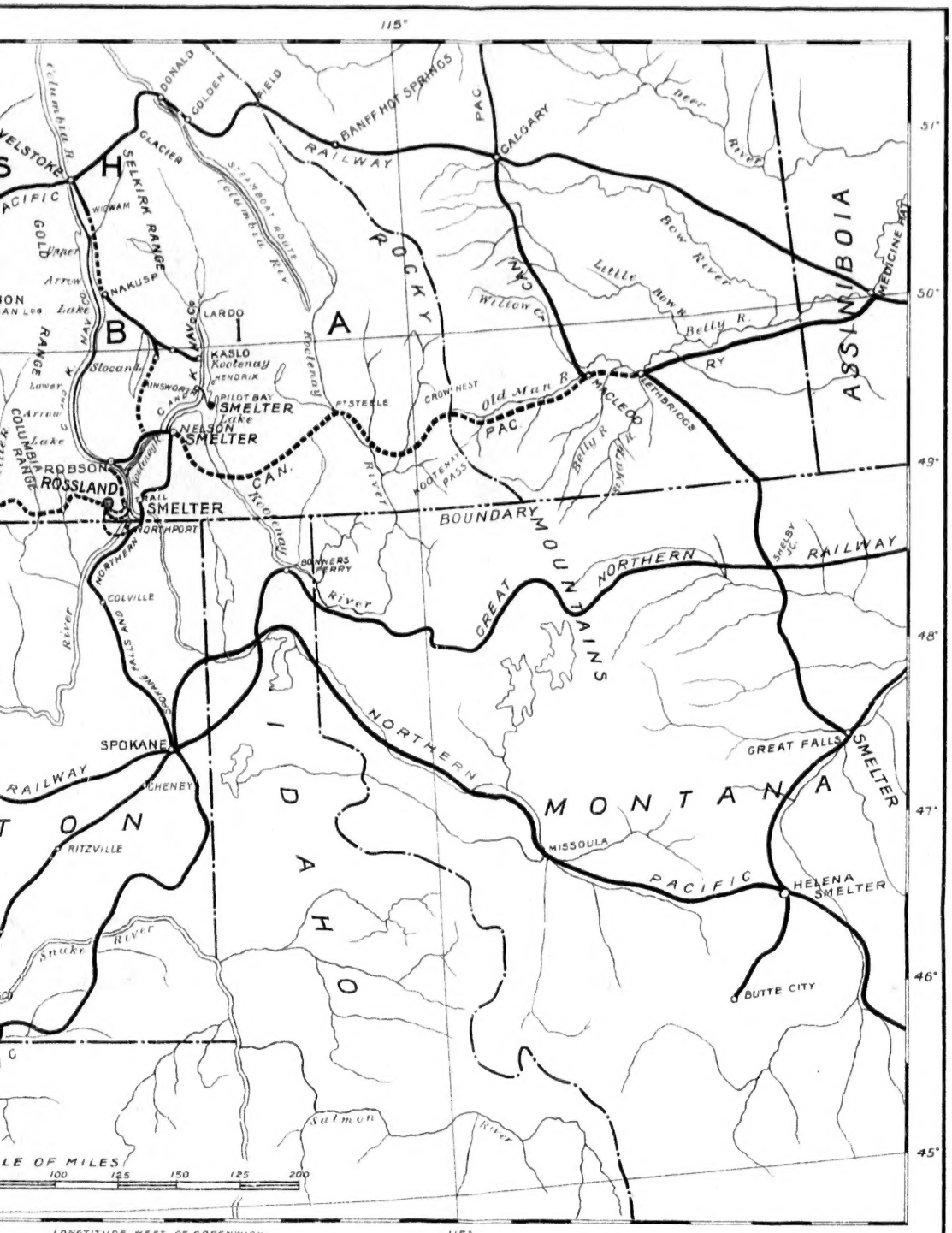
115°
DONALD
GOLDEN
FIELD
BANFF HOT SPRINGS
CALGARY
RAILWAY
PAC.
Deer River
51°
VELSTOKE
PACIFIC
GLACIER
SELKIRK RANGE
Columbia R.
Steamboat Route
Columbia R.
WIGWAM
GOLD
Upper
Arrow
Lake
RNAKUSP
LARDO
KASLO
Kootenay
HENDRIX
PILOT BAY
SMELTER
Lake
NELSON
SMELTER
ROBSON
ROSSLAND
SMELTER
NORTHPORT
BOUNDARY
CAN.
Kootenay River
Columbia River
ROCKY
MOUNTAINS
CAN.
PAC
Willow Cr.
Little Bow R.
Bow River
Belly R.
RY
ASSINIBOIA
MEDICINE HAT
50°
Old Man R.
CROWNEST
PASS
ST STEELE
MACLEOD
LETHBRIDGE
Belly R.
Waterton R.
49°
BONNERS FERRY
River
GREAT NORTHERN
RAILWAY
SHELBY JC.
COLVILLE
River
SPOKANE
RAILWAY
CHENEY
RITZVILLE
NORTHERN
PACIFIC
RAILWAY
GREAT FALLS
SMELTER
MONTANA
48°
47°
MISSOULA
HELENA
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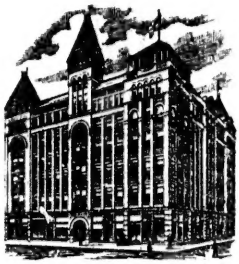

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- WEEKLY RATES LESS. -

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It is centrally located.

CHAPTER I.

STATUTORY DIVISIONS PHYSICAL FEATURES—MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

THE Province of British Columbia has been divided into a number of Districts of which that occupying the south-east part is known as Kootenay.

Kootenay in turn, is divided into the East and West Divisions.

The Trail Creek Mining Camp is that part of the south-west corner of West Kootenay in the vicinity of Trail Creek, a western tributary of the Columbia River.

Geo. M. Dawson, D.S., F.S.S., Director of the Geological and Natural History Survey of Canada, describes the mountains of British Columbia as "comprising four great mountain systems * * * nearly parallel to each other and to the coast—the Rocky, the Gold, the Coast and the Vancouver Ranges."

"The Rocky Mountain Range proper, is the furthest inland. * * * The next mountain system, to the south-west of the Rocky Mountains, is referred to under the general name of the Gold Range, though really a complex and somewhat irregular mountainous belt, which include several more or less distinct and partly over-lapping ranges. The Purcell, Selkirk and Columbia Ranges constitute its southern part. * * * West Kootenay comprises the southern portion of the Selkirk and Columbia Ranges. * * The mountains to the west of the Arrow Lakes may be described as belonging to the Columbia Range."

The Trail Creek Camp lies on the eastern slope of the southern extremity of the Columbia Range, which gradually merges into placeau land south of the international boundary.

The Spokane

THE ONLY

First-Class Hotel in Spokane.

AMERICAN PLAN ONLY.

BEN. NORMAN, = Manager.

Although the country is exceedingly mountainous, the peaks do not attain the elevation of the ranges to the north, while the rugged contour of the latter gives place to a more rounded outline. The Town of Rossland, which may be considered as the centre of the camp, lies about six miles west of the Columbia and five miles north of the international boundary.

Trail Creek rises near the western boundary of the Town, and flows eastward—as has been stated—into the Columbia River. At about a mile and a quarter to the west of Rossland, another small water-course, known as the east fork of Sheep Creek, flows southerly and joins the main creek of that name to the south of the international boundary. The united streams enter the Columbia River near Little Dalles, in the State of Washington.

At the date of writing, wagon roads traverse the valleys of Trail and Sheep Creeks. The Trail Creek road connects at the Town of Trail with the boats of the Columbia and Kootenay Navigation Company. These boats ply between Revelstoke, on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and Northport in the State of Washington, on the Spokane and Northern Railway. A spur from the main line of the Canadian Pacific traverses the east shore of the Columbia River, connecting with the steamers at the north end of the Upper Arrow Lake. At Nakusp and Robson, railway connection is made with the Slocan and Nelson mining districts, respectively.

Spokane, the southern terminus of the Spokane and Northern Railway, is the intersecting point of the main lines of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific Railways, while a branch line brings it in touch with the Union Pacific system.

The Sheep Creek wagon road runs to Northport. Over these wagon roads heavy ore teams have hitherto carried the commerce of the camp, but this tedious and expensive means of transportation will soon be a memory only, as three railway company's have located lines to Rossland. The Trail Creek Tramway Co as under construction a narrow guage railway to Trail. The Canadian Pacific will connect with the Columbia

and Kootenay Navigation Co's boats at a point opposite Robson, and the Red Mountain Railway has located an extension of the Spokane and Northern Railway up the valley of Sheep Creek.

The camp is almost directly on a straight line passing through Revelstoke and Spokane, the points at which connections with four great transcontinental roads of the continent are made. The distances, as the crow flies, to these points are 130 and 100 miles respectively. When the railroads referred to are completed, transportation facilities, when compared with those of other great mining centres, will be seen to be unique. The Vernon and Nelson Telephone Co. provides telegraphic communication with the rest of the world, and the Dominion Express Company performs the functions of small parcel and money carriers to the great convenience of the community.

CHAPTER II.

HISTORY.

The first authenticated discovery of gold in British Columbia was made by an Indian woman who accidentally discovered a nugget on the beach at Gold Harbour on the West coast of the Queen Charlotte Islands in 1851. An employee of the Hudson Bay Post at Fort Colville found placer gold a short distance south of the International Boundary in 1855. According to Dr. Dawson the epoch making discovery of gold in British Columbia was the direct result of the Colville excitement. From October 6th, 1857, to the end of that year, three hundred ounces of gold had passed through the hands of the Hudson Bay Company. In 1861, Williams and Lightning Creeks were discovered. Their fabulous wealth created an excitement that drew the mining population to Cariboo while the other mining camps of the Province were almost deserted.

Rich placer deposits being discovered in 1863 on Wild Horse Creek in East Kooteney attention was turned in that direction, and the Government constructed the Dewdney trail to keep the commerce resulting within our own borders. This trail was constructed by Mr. Dewdney, (now the Hon. E. Dewdney, Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia,) who has kindly written for this pamphlet an account of his connection with the work, which is as follows:

"The first mining excitement in the Kootenais (Kootenay) country was in the spring of 1864, when Wild Horse Creek, Findlay Creek and one or two others were discovered. Information reached the Government during Governor Seymour's term of office.

"In the spring of 1864 Mr. Seymour forwarded to the Imperial Government a report he had received of the richness of the diggings, at the same time he stated that the mines were easily approached from Washington Territory, but most difficult to reach from the Fraser.

"Up to this time all the miners had gone in from Walla Walla, Spokane, and Fort Colville by Tobacco Plains, and the me[illegible]nts from these parts followed. Customs officers were appointed at the several points where the traffic crossed the boundary.

"Mr. Seymour at once took steps to find out which would be the best route to transport goods through our own territory. Naturally there was a great difference of opinion as to which route was the best, some contending that up the Fraser River and Thompson River to Fort Kamloops, thence by steamer to some point at the head of the Shuswap Lake, thence across to the Columbia River, and from there by some route to the mines. Others contended that via Hope, Similkameen, Osoyoos to Fort Shepherd or Fort Colville, and thence to the mines was the best. Survey parties were sent out during the fall and winter of '64 when it was found that the former route was objectionable, I presume, on account of the necessity of handling the goods so

often en route, while by the Hope route, pack animals could travel from the Fraser to Wild Horse Creek without a break.

"It had been found that the only route open for travel (and that a very rough one) via Hope and the Southern Boundary was partly through American territory; this led to great inconvenience and annoyances, as it necessitated the taking of United States customs officers from the point where the U. S. was struck through to the point of delivery in B. C., and paying the cost, some $4.00 per day, both going and returning.

"In consequence of this, and upon the Hope route being determined upon, in the spring of '65 Governor Seymour sent for me, and after stating that he was most anxious to be able to get a route entirely through B. C. for the transport of our goods, and that great complaint had been made to him in regard to the inconvenience occasioned by the U. S. customs regulations, asked me whether I thought I could explore for a new trail connecting with the old Similkameen trail which I had constructed in 1860, and keeping it within our own territory have it in readiness for the Fall business.

"I replied that provided I was allowed to pick my own men for the work, I thought I could do it. I was then and there instructed to get my party together, and be ready at once. I engaged the service of some of the old Royal Engineers, G. Turner, (who is now in charge of the dredging of the Fraser for the Dominion Government) being my second in command.

"We left Hope early in May, and crossed the mountain on snowshoes, packing our supplies, etc., on Indians, 18 of whom we engaged, and their packs averaged 100 lbs.

"On arriving at Princeton, we secured horses and used them until we again took the mountains.

"This we did some distance down the Similkameen, and struck across to the Lower Arm Lake, from there we sent an Indian along the shore of the lake to endeavour to obtain a canoe to take us down the river to Fort Shepherd. He returned in about 36 hours, when we left for Fort Shepherd. From there

I took a canoe, ran down to Fort Colville to make arrangements for supplies, etc., and returning to Fort Shepherd went up the Columbia to the mouth of the Kootenais River in canoes, and up that river, making 14 portages on the way to the lake. I then crossed the lake for the purpose of examining the country at the head of the bay, opposite the outlet of the Kootenais River, hoping to get a route to the head of the St. Mary's River, and down it to Wild Horse Creek. I then returned, and went up the east side of the lake, passing where I presume the Blue Bell is now located, and where I broke off almost pure lead oozing out of the crevice of the bank, and from which the Indians told me they made bullets, and on reaching the west side of the lake, stopped at the Hot Springs, where Fry, a rather celebrated man in those days, was camped with some Indians. He took me to where he thought silver ore of a rich character existed. Since that time rich claims have been located in that locality, and are now being worked.

"I then explored from the lake to Wild Horse Creek, via Goat River and the Moyie River, finding a good line to Wild Horse Creek.

"With what information I had obtained from my party we were examining from Christina Creek to Fort Shepherd, I determined on my route, and before returning from Wild Horse, put on a party of 60 men to cut out and make a four foot trail. On reaching Fort Shepherd, I placed a party working east of the Columbia, and another working west up Sheep Creek,* and crossing somewhere in the vicinity of where, I presume, Rossland is now.

"I started another party in the vicinity of Boundary Creek to work the untouched portion of the route which required grading to keep our line north of the U. S. boundary.

"With some 200 men at work, I opened the route for traffic by the middle of August, through our own territory.

"Although during my exploration, I had convinced myself that a good mineral country existed in the neighbourhood of

* Probably the Trail Creek of to-day.—Ed.

Kootenay, and endeavoured to get people interested in it, that district remained unworked for over 20 years."

For several years after the construction of the Dewdney trail placer mining seems to have been conducted with considerable activity in East Kootenay. This trail passes through the Trail Creek Camp. A hole 5 feet deep on the LeRoi—surface work on several veins and a railway pick with a rotten handle are evidence that the conspicuous iron capping which marks the surface croppings of veins in this locality attracted the attention of early prospectors. But the surface croppings were of small value—and there was neither money nor means of transportation. One claim, however, is said to date its existence from the early sixties.

This claim, the Lily May, is near the Dewdney trail, in the south belt, or belt of mineral lying south of Rossland. After passing through several hands it was recorded on the 27th of May, 1890, by Oliver Bordan. Development work was confined almost entirely to the assessments required by law to hold a claim, but so promising was its appearance that a short time ago Messrs. Bowles and Raymond bought it for $40,000, one-half in 90 days, the balance in 6 months from date.

On July 7th, 1890, Jos. Bourjouis discovered and located the Centre Star and the War Eagle, while his partner J. Morris, located the Idaho and Virginia. At the same time they discovered the LeRoi, but as the law prohibited more than one location on a vein by the same party, they offered it to E. S. Topping if he would pay the expense of recording. This offer was accepted.

Following these were the Josie, Iron Mask, Enterprise, Columbia, Kootenay and others.

The first assays of LeRoi ore gave $37.00 in gold per ton, of the War Eagle $23.00, and of the Centre Star $25.00.

The Centre Star, War Eagle, LeRoi and Iron Mask were offered to J. E. Ross of Spokane for $30,000.00 on time payments. But when the cheques were made out for the different owners,

Bourjouis and Morris wanted an additional $500.00, so Mr. Ross withdrew.

In November of 1890, Mr. Topping obtained as much as $500.00 in gold from the LeRoi. Accompanied by Bourjouis and Morris, he went to Colville, Washington, where he met George Foster and Col. Redpath, two lawyers from Spokane, who were there attending court. The result of this trip was the bonding of sixteen-thirtieths of the LeRoi to Oliver Durant—a gentleman who had been engaged in mining pursuits for many years—and the present owners, at the rate of $30,000.00 for the whole, he agreeing to do $3,000 worth of work during the life of the bond.

In December a shaft was commenced under the charge of E. J. Kelly, and continued all winter in spite of great difficulties in procuring supplies. Ore was found in a short time. Mr. Kelly packed samples on his back to Trail Creek weekly which were sent from there, on horseback. Some of these samples assayed as high as $472.00 in gold to the ton. In the following fall Mr. Durant sent a car load of ore out on a pack train which was shipped to Butte, for which he got a smelter return of $86.40. Thus encouraged, a company was formed to operate the mine and the bond was taken up. Within the last few months three dividends have been declared, amounting to 20 cents a share, par value of shares $5.00. Having fairly launched the LeRoi, Mr. Durant bought the Centre Star and Idaho, from Bourjouis and Morris, for himself and Alex. Tarbet. $25,000.00 was spent on the Centre Star, and in July, 1895, these claims were incorporated as companies. The development of this property, until it may be truly said that there are several million dollars of ore in sight, is fully related in the chapter on the development of the mines.

The next transaction of note was the bonding of the War Eagle to J. A. Finch, who spent $4,000.00 in development and allowed the bond to lapse. About this time P. Clark bonded the Josie and started work. But taking a notion that it had been "salted" he threw it up.

Mr. Clark then, in company with some of the parties in the former bond of the War Eagle bonded that claim. At the be-

ginning of 1895 War Eagle stock had cost the holders about seventeen cents a share. In less than a year the mine yielded a profit of over $350,000.00. The history of the pioneer claims which have attracted the attention of the world to the Camp has now been briefly related. Much might be written respecting the wonderful discoveries that have been made on other claims, it must suffice here to state that many of them have been bonded for large sums, varing from $20,000.00 to $75,000.00 and over. Machinery is in operation in the LeRoi, War Eagle, Nickle Plate, Centre Star, O. K. and R. E. Lee; the Josie, Cliff and Columbia and Kootenay claims will soon be fully equipped with plant already purchased, while owners of many other properties including the Homestake, Crown Paint and Morning Star are prepared to put in machinery as soon as development has proceeded far enough to enable it to be used to advantage.

The new smelter at Trail, for the reduction of Trail Creek ores, and the Narrow Guage Railroad, nearly completed, to Rossland, which is being built by the proprietors of the Smelter to carry ore to their mill, will do much to further development in the Camp in the near future. The smelter, which is now in full blast, has been described as follows :

The power is furnished by a Mansfield circular cut-off engine. The blast is a Root centrifugal fan. There is a plant of double decked O'Hara roasters. The main stack, connecting with the gas flume is over one hundred and fifty feet in height. There are four reverberatory furnaces, probably the largest ever constructed for this class of smelting, with a stack to each furnace. Gravity is utilized in the charging of the reverberatories. Above each furnace there is a battery of four cylindrical calciners supported on iron pillars. These calciners, which are of new design, being vertical iron cylinders lined with fire brick, revolving round a vertical shaft, have their tops placed on a level with the ore bins, which facilitates the charging. After calcination the charge is run through the bottom into a hopper communicating with a still lower hopper which discharges directly into the reverberatory, thus elim-

inating any hoisting or handling otherwise necessary. The laboratories are complete in every respect.

It is almost incredible that it is only a few months since the first LeRoi dividend was declared; that ten per cent. monthly dividends upon a capitalization of $500,000.00 began to attract attention to the War Eagle; that Rossland was only a ranche with a few cabins; while to-day it has an estimated population of 3000 with first-class hotels, a perfect system of water supply and is lit by electricity; lastly that capital has become so convinced of the permanence of the camp as a field for investment that a 250 ton smelter has been completed to reduce its ores. One railway is nearly completed within its bounds and two others that will place it in touch with the great transportation systems of the continent have located lines into the heart of the camp and are prepared to build with the advent of spring.

Many people are turning their attention to the camp with the idea of investing in its mines or real estate. To these the following, taken from a pamphlet recently issued by the St. Elmo Gold Mining Co., will be worthy of perusal. "The very fact that Trail Creek is in British Columbia is favourable to American investors. The foreigner has all of the privileges of the Canadian, and owing to the methods there adopted, there has never been, and there never will be that trouble between the owner of the mine and others who wish to take it upon themselves to run it for him, which has so much embarrassed mining in some portions of the United States. Absolute title in the form of a Crown grant can be obtained to mining property. Foreign corporations have the same privileges as domestic corporations. In short, it is the policy of the government and its able judiciary to do all in their power to encourage and protect foreign investment and to develop the mineral resources of the Province."

REDDIN & JACKSON

• • MINES • •

MINING STOCKS

ROSSLAND, - B. C.

CHAPTER III.

ROSSLAND.

(The Town of Rossland. Written for the 'Xmas Number of the Trail Creek News, by C. O'Brien Reddin.)

"The population of Rossland is 3,000 according to a conservative estimate. One short year ago it was not as many hundred. Notwithstanding this marvellous growth our city has never had a boom. Like Topsy, "it just growed."

"It is not the purpose of this article to boom the town, nor do I intend to write of its ancient history. In his note requesting me to write this brief description, the editor says: "Write a cold-blooded article, not padded or painted over-bright; write just as it is to you and I, that we may not be the means of bringing a poor man here to doom him to disappointment, etc." * * In common with all the other business men of Rossland, I have always depreciated any attempt to misrepresent our resources. * * There is no room here for people who cannot help themselves. "Dollars do not grow on the trees," but we have trees and thanks to a "combine" of the woodmen, these trees are worth when cut into firewood from $3.50 to $5.00 per cord. Ordinary labour is paid $2.50 per day; skilled labour, $3.00 and $3.50. Board can be had for $4.50 to $15.00 per week. As good a "two-bit" meal can be had here as anywhere in the North-west. Good houses rent from $5.00 to $15.00 per month, and the home-seeker can purchase a lot 30 x 100 for from $100 up. Business locations of the same size sell from $1,500 to $3,000, and are daily ra. ng in value, as the principal street, Columbia avenue, is rapi y building up, and the business man who contemplates getting in here, had better bestir himself. Right here let me say that this is no town for a man with a small capital. There are no stores to rent. A man must figure on buying or leasing a lot and building his own store. He must figure on paying $1,500 f.r the lot. If he is desirous of getting

Paterson, Johnson & Co.

Real Estate and Mining Brokers,

FINANCIAL AGENTS,

ROSSLAND, B. C.

Full information given on Mining Properties in Kootenay District.

CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED.

Leading Hotel of Rossland.

FIRST-CLASS IN ALL ITS APPOINTMENTS.

Hotel Allan

Headquarters for Commercial Men.
Cuisine unexcelled in B. C.

The Bar is always supplied with the Choicest Wines, Liquors, Cigars.

Patronize me ONCE and you will ALWAYS do so —— MRS. M. E ALLAN.

in among the "other fellows" he must count on paying $2,500 to $3,000 for the lot. Lumber costs, rough, $14 per thousand, delivered; dressed, about $22; shingles, $5 per thousand; plastering, 35c. per yard. Carpenters are paid $3.50 per day as a general rule, but first-class mechanics get higher wages. We have stores and hotels in abundance, and every want can be supplied by local trades people as well as in any city, but the right man can always find room in a live town like Rossland. So much for dry details and finances.

"This is perhaps the most law-abiding community in the world. Our people have a most wholesome respect for the "Canadian law," as exemplified in the person of Recorder John Kirkup and his assistant, Constable Houson, and Night Officer Jerrow. * * Intending settlers in Rossland can rely on protection to their lives and property, and, as in all mining towns, ladies and children are treated with the greatest courtesy and respect.

"Of churches we have three, Methodist, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic, with resident clergymen. Our public school has 140 pupils on the roll. * * Three carefully edited newspapers, the Record, Miner and Prospector, supply us with the news, foreign and local; and the News comes once a week from Trail to tell us about that thriving town. A daily mail from Spokane brings us the morning paper published in that city, and all the provincial papers have subscribers here. * * Post office orders can bo obtained on any country in the postal union, and a post office savings bank has just been established. The Dominion Express Company has an office here also, and receives a large amount of money, for mining is a costly business and necessitates a large expenditure.

"In conclusion I will say as I have already intimated, this is not a poor man's town, but for a man with a small amount of cash it presents a profitable field for investment. The Trail Tramway, when completed, will give us cheap transportation to the smelter and our pay roll will be multiplied many times before the News issues its next holiday number."

W. M. NEWTON,

CUSTOMS BROKER,

Mines and Mining Shares.

ROSSLAND REAL ESTATE.

(LARGE SELECTION.)

Assisted by Mr. Edward Bailie, Expert Accountant.

AGENCIES:

Dominion Express Company.

Calgary Brewing and Malting Co., Ltd.

Grand Forks (Kettle River) Townsite Company.

Phœnix, Brooklyn, N. Y., & American, Philadelphia, Fire Insurance Companies.

Registrar of Marriages.

Since Mr. Reddin wrote the above the English Church, under the charge of the Rev. A. H. Irwin, has been added to the list; the Opera House has had a successful season—so successful that it has recently changed hands at a good figure and an enlargement is contemplated. Electric lights have replaced coal oil and the water works have been completed. Water is brought from Stony Creek, to a reservoir nearly 300 feet above the town, affording a plentiful supply for domestic purposes, and with the assistance of an efficent fire brigade, a splendid system of protection against fire. The engines for the Tramway have arrived and the grade is almost ready for the rails. Last but not least, the news has been received just before going to press, that the Banks of Montreal and British North America have opened agencies in Rossland. In concluding this article a few statistics may be of interest.

The receipts of the recorder's office at Rossland for the months of January and February, 1895, were.	$ 891 60
For the same period in 1896	5,833 15

The total receipts for 1895 were $25,000.00. If the increase for the remainder of the year is in proportion the total receipts for 1896 will exceed $150,000.00.

The Dominion Express Company, under the management of Mr. Newton, handled in cash, in and out, during the 7 months ending 31st January, 1895, $348,000.00, and in freight, in and out 40,000 lbs. In 1894 the shipments of ore aggregated in round numbers $125,000.00. In 1895 it was nearly ten times that amount, estimated on the smelter returns of about 90 per cent. of the total output, which was, in round figures, 25,000 tons. The amount of gold, silver and copper contained in these ores is shown in the following table—gold being estimated at $20 per ounce, silver 60 cents per ounce and copper 9 cents per pound.

Gold	ounces	45,950	value $ 919,000
Silver	ounces	137,850	value 82,710
Copper	pounds	2,572,850	value 231,556
Total			$1,233,266

TRAIL.

IN JUNE, 1895, THE TOWN OF TRAIL CONSISTED OF A HOTEL, A GENERAL STORE, AND A BLACKSMITH SHOP. TO-DAY IT HAS A 300 TON SMELTER IN OPERATION; A RAILWAY NEARLY COMPLETE TO THE MINES; TWO SAW MILLS; THIRTEEN STORES AND BUSINESS HOUSES; NINE HOTELS; TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMMUNICATION; AND A POPULATION OF 1,200. THE BRITISH COLUMBIA IRON WORKS CO. AND THE MAC MACHINE WORKS HAVE DECIDED ON PUTTING UP WORKSHOPS WITHOUT DELAY. THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY HAVE A LINE LOCATED FROM ROSSLAND TO TRAIL; A SHORT LINE WILL CONNECT WITH THE NELSON & FORT SHEPHERD RAILWAY, OVER THE PRESENT WAGON ROAD.

THERE IS NATURALLY A STIR IN TOWN LOTS, AND THEY ARE SELLING FREELY. ABOUT 200 HAVE BEEN SOLD, BUT THE TOWNSITE COMPANY HAVE ABOUT 400 LEFT, AND FOR A TIME AT LEAST, ARE PREPARED TO ACCOMMODATE ALL WHO REQUIRE HOMES OR BUSINESS SITES. ANY DESIRED INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT, WILL BE FURNISHED ON APPLICATION TO

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The out-put for 1896 will, without doubt, largely exceed this, as the mines exporting have introduced expensive machinery, which will at least treble their production. Several other mines have also put in plants of large capacity. Transportation charges will be greatly reduced by railway facilities, and the Trail smelter with a daily capacity of 250 tons a day being only 6 miles distant, many properties will ship ore that in the past were unable to do so. It has been estimated that the production for 1896 will not be less than $5,000,000.00. This will of course directly effect business in Rossland.

CHAPTER IV.

DEVELOPMENT.

In the following pages a concise account has been given of a number of prominent claims selected from all quarters of the camp. There are many well-developed claims looked on as being as full of promise. that are not referred to in these pages.

The St. Elmo Gold Mining pamphlet previously quoted remarks respecting the occurrence of the ore and the formation of the country in the neighborhood of Rossland: "Two great belts of Mineral are known to-day, one to the north of the town, the other to the south, each about one-half mile distant. These are made up of a series of great parallel fissures, striking generally east by north, dipping north and cross connected by a net work of small fissures or stringers. These fissures have been solidly filled with what may, perhaps, be described as natural matte and speiss, carrying a large amount of gold ore; in other words, with an intimate mixture of chalco-pyrite, pyrite, pyrrhite and mispickle, the sulphides and arsenides of copper and iron. The iron predominates, and lowers the treatment charges of the smelter, while the mispickle, or arsenical pyrites of iron, seem to carry most of the gold.

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The country rock is a diorite with frequent intrusions of granite and porphyritic dykes, which so far as encountered to date, do not appear to displace or fault the vein to any appreciable extent. A notable feature of such veins as have been worked is that gold contents are strongly maintained in depth, even increasing in many instances."

The present total for hauling, railroad transportation and reduction at the American smelters is $14 per ton. With local reduction works this figure will probably be brought as low as $8. The difference being a paying profit on many claims now unprofitable.

O. K. The O. K. Mining Co. owns the O. K. Mine. The capital stock of the Company $1,000,000, par value of shares $1.00, J. L. Warner, manager. This is a free milling proposition although a certain percentage of the ore is smelting in character. The development work at the end of January was about 1000 feet, summarized as follows: Level No. 11, 70 feet drift, ore 3 feet, average width of vein 5 feet. Level No. 12, 400 feet drift, ore 4 feet, average width of vein 7 feet. The first stope presents 300 feet of continuous ore, the winze and cross-cut 60 feet. Level No. 13, cross-cut tunnel 275 feet, stoping distance between Nos. 12 and 13, 80 feet. The extension of level No. 12 to the boundary of the O. K. ground will give a stoping height of 1000 feet. Beside native gold both metallic silver and copper occur. The stopes of No. 12 level have been described as follows: The ledge has widened out to seven or eight feet with solid ore between the two well defined walls. Quite a large chamber has been opened out by the stopers and the entire roof and one side are bedecked with quartz carrying many beautiful colours. The metals carried in this quartz are native gold, native silver, native copper, both shot and flake, galena, pyrrhite, arseno-pyrite, bornite or peacock copper and chalco-pyrite, with the alteration products of malachite or green copper carbonate, azurite or blue copper carbonite, black copper oxide with here and there bunches of chrystalized azurite. Mineralogists and mining men can easily understand what a dazzling array this would make. A small stamp mill has heretofore

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extracted the free gold. A portion of the ore is concentrated and a portion of it, in the form of pure iron sulphide, is shipped to the smelter. The yield from the stamp mill is $20.00 per ton in free gold. The concentrates run all the way from $50.00 to $250.00 per ton. A new 10 stamp mill is being placed in position which will treat about 25 tons of ore every 25 hours. The executive office of the O. K. Gold Mining Company is 509 Traders Block, Spokane, and the main office at Rossland.

War Eagle, Iron Mask, Virginia, Poorman.

The War Eagle Gold Mining Co., of Spokane, is the owner of these claims. The capital stock of the company is $500,000.00 divided into 500,000 shares having a par value of $1.00 each. P. Clark, president.

The workings on the War Eagle and Iron Mask are included in one scheme of development, and consist of three tunnels. The upper, or No. 1 tunnel is on the War Eagle, and enters the ridge on which the claim lies at 110 feet below its summit. It runs along a large chute of rich ore, affording stoping ground to the grass roots. The company has shipped 12,000 tons of ore from this tunnel that have averaged $42.50 in gold, 5 per cent. copper and 3½ oz. in silver.

The No. 2 tunnel is 150 feet below the No. 1, on the same vein. It runs along the ore chute described, and gives to the level of the No. 1 tunnel, 150 feet of stoping ground. Mr. Clark, the president, is reported in the Rossland Miner of March 14th, as follows: "In the War Eagle we have been running on the big ore chute for the past 60 days, and it has been getting a little wider as we progressed. When we first struck it the ore body was about two feet wide, and kept on slowly widening until this morning it is 12 feet between the walls. The distance driven on the ore chute is now about 150 feet. The value of the ore is perhaps a little better than that obtained from No. 1 tunnel, both in gold and copper. The ore in No. 2 shows about $50 in gold and an average of 8 per cent. copper."

A third tunnel is being run from the eastern end of the Iron Mask, for the purpose of striking the ore body met with in the

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other tunnels at a depth of 250 feet below the No. 2 tunnel. When in the ore chute there will be a total stoping ground of 511 feet. In the report referred to, Mr. Clark says respecting the 3rd tunnel: "This tunnel was started on a low grade ore of perhaps a total value of $25 and continued so for about 100 feet. Then it gave entirely out, and we are now driving in a blank, and intend going straight for the Iron Mask shaft near the west end of the ground. This leaves us 600 feet yet to drive before we get to our objective point."

"In the shaft the work is somewhat limited and we are unable at present to state the extent of the ore chute. The ore so far taken from this point, from smelter returns, shows $60 in gold, 6 per cent. copper and 4 oz. silver. The ore body averages about 6 feet wide as far as driven, the depth of the shaft being about 100 feet and the drift 40 feet long. The No. 3 tunnel will cut this ore body 120 feet lower."

A three-drill compressor represents the machinery employed on this mine to date. On the 12th inst., a new plant replaced this. It is described as an 8x20 duplex cross compound corliss air compressor, with all the latest improvements in circulating the water and condensing the steam. It has a capacity equal to 200 horse power, and will be used for running drills, pumps, forges and hoisting engines. It delivers the air to the workings through 2800 feet of 8 inch pipe. The compressor was designed and built by the Canadian Rand Drill Company, of Sherbrooke, Que. War Eagle stock is quoted at $1.90 bid, $2.00 asked.

VIRGINIA AND POORMAN.—Considerable work has been done on these claims. On the Virginia a permanent working shaft will be commenced in a short time. On the Poorman a tunnel is being driven to tap an ore chute exposed by preliminary development. The company has determined on building a smelter for the reduction of their ores, but have not yet decided on its location.

Le Roi, Black Bear, Ivanhoe.

These properties are owned by the Le Roi Mining and Smelting Company of Spokane, Wash. Capital stock 500,000 shares having a par value of $5.00 each. W. W. D. Turner, president.

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Work of any magnitude has been confined to the Le Roi. The vein that is being worked runs parallel to the side lines of the claim and dips to the north at an angle of 45 from the surface down to the 250 foot level, and their assumes a position almost perpendicular.

A shaft has been sunk on this vein to a depth of nearly 500 feet, from which drifts have been run both easterly and westerly at the 200, 250, 300, 350 and 430 feet levels. Several cross-cuts at the 350 and 430 feet levels show the vein to have a constant width of 36 feet, while cores from a diamond drill, at these levels, shew that after traversing 26 to 28 feet of country rock another vein 22 feet wide of equal value exists. Smelter returns for ore from the 350 feet level, 2 oz. gold, 2 to 5 per cent. copper, 2 oz. silver, while from the 430 feet level they are almost fabulous, as they range from $80.00 to over $300.00 gold in some of the recent shipments. It may be stated here that the ore from this level tends to quartz and free milling. The average value of the ore per ton was stated by the officials of the Company to be $35.00 per ton last January. But as the ore has been constantly increasing in value as depth is attained, this figure may be considered, at the date of writing, the middle of March, as considerably under the mark. The output has for several months been about 100 tons a day. A double compartment shaft is now under construction. When completed, the capacity of the mine will be 400 tons a day.

The first shipment of magnitude was in January, 1894. In that year 6000 tons, and in 1895 11,000 tons, were sent to the smelters of Great Falls, Mont., E. Helena, Mont., Montana Ore Purchasing Co., Butte, Mont., Tacoma, Wash., and Everett, Washington.

The machinery with which this mine has been worked comprises a Ledgerwood Hoist, a Rand Air Compressor, 3 boilers of 50, 80 and 100 horse power respectively, an Edison light plant, a Sullivan electric diamond drill, five Ingersoll-Sargeant rock drills and two Little Giant Rand Drills. A new 20 drill plant has been ordered from the Rand Drill Co., Sherbrooke, Quebec.

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On the 4th of March a dividend of $25,000.00 or 5 cents a share was declared, making a total of $100,000.00 or 20 cents a share paid as dividends during the last few months. The reduction in freight rates when transportation to Trail by rail can be made will augment the profits which this great property may be expected to realize. Shares on the 14th inst. were quoted as $4.00 bid, $5.00 asked.

Josie. This property was acquired in November last by the Josie Gold Mining Company of Spokane. Geo. T. Crane, president. Capital stock $700,000.00. Par value of shares $1.00.

200,000 shares have been set aside as treasury stock to be sold as money is required for development work. Sales are being made at 35 to 40 cents on a rising market.

Several open cuts expose a vein running paralled with sides of the claim, averaging 5 feet in width. There are two tunnels. The lower, or No. 1 tunnel, is over 400 feet long. It affords 230 feet of stoping ground to the surface. A shaft has been sunk at the mouth of this drift to a depth of 65 feet, all on the vein. The tunnel is now being cut through an ore chute that extends to the surface. The whole face of the drift is in ore with only the hanging wall in sight.

A second tunnel 65 feet long has been drifted above the No. 1. Total shipments to January 20th, roughly 2000 tons, yielding 2 oz. gold, 5% copper, 5 oz. silver. There is now on the way from Montreal, for use in this mine, a 5 drill compressor, 30 h.p. hoist, a 60 h.p. boiler and a sinking pump.

The Company intend sinking continuously on the shaft mentioned.

Centre Star. In 1891 Oliver Durrant purchased this claim, in company with A. Tarbet; he expended $25,000 in development work. In July 1895, the Centre Star Co., capital stock $500,000, the par value of the shares being $1.00, was formed with Mr. Durrant as general manager. In January last the development of the mine was described as follows :

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"A tunnel is now in 500 feet with an uprise 172 feet back about 100 feet from the present face of the tunnel. The plan of development is to extend the tunnel on the lead to the Le Roi ground on the west, a distance of about 800 feet, and to run cross-cuts both north and south to the claim limits from a point a little east of the uprise. The south cross-cut will be about 250 feet long and the north cross-cut 350 feet. There are four parallel veins on the Centre Star, one on the south of the present tunnel and two north of it, the tunnel running on the fourth. All these veins come from the Le Roi and War Eagle. The purpose of the north and south cross-cuts is to open up the ore vein on the south and the two on the north."

The 500 feet of tunnel is almost continuously in ore from 13 to 20 feet wide. The ore will average $20.00 in gold per ton. The company has never shipped a pound of ore and does not propose to ship any for some time, if ever. It is altogether probable reduction works will be erected on the ground. The present scheme of development ought to be completed by August. The face of the tunnel is five feet wide by 7 feet high, all in ore. Each foot of penetration in the drift takes out five tons. The distance to the surface at this point is 172 feet, therefore each foot of penetration from the floor of the tunnel to the surface would mean over 24 tons. It is 800 feet from the face of the tunnel to the Le Roi ground and the ore body has an average width of 20 feet. Each foot of penetration therefore means 96 tons, or in the 800 feet of vein between the present face of the tunnel and the Le Roi ground 76,800 tons assuming a main depth of 172 feet. As a matter of fact the depth at the west end line will be 320 feet. It is not unreasonable to suppose the Centre Star will have 250,000 tons of ore in sight by next August—worth not far from $5,000,000.00. Since the above was written development work has been constantly in progress. In February the cross-cuts proved the ledge to be over 70 feet wide with an average grade of ore exceeding $15.00 per ton in value. The face of the tunnel has been advanced steadily, in solid ore, the full width of which is not known as no wall is apparent on either side. The ore already uncovered in this mine is simply astound-

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Nickel Plate. The property of the Nickel Plate Mining Company. Capital stock $500,000.00. Par value of shares $1.00. Superintendent, Wm. Fitzwilliam. A shaft has been sunk and, at the 100 foot level, drifts have been run along the vein in both directions and a cross-cut, after passing through several small seams of good grade ore, has at last tapped a six foot ledge. On this vein drifts are being run both ways showing two pay streaks each about 20 inches wide, separated by comparatively barren ledge matter. Several average samples have gone as high as $275.00 to the ton in gold. The drifts on the main vein show good bodies of solid ore, averaging from $80 to $100 per ton in gold. About 150 tons of shipping ore are on the dump. A steam hoist and a sinking pump are used.

Cliff. Messrs. S. M. and G. C. Wharton, John R. Cook and E. T. Late own this mine. Two tunnels shew large ore bodies. The lower, or No. 1 drift, runs 210 feet in solid ore; cross-cuts shew the ore body to be 15 feet wide. Tunnel No. 2 runs for a distance of 170 feet in a chute of ore. Two shafts 20 and 33 feet deep, respectively, are in solid ore. Two veins, varying in width from 4 to 16 feet, can be traced the full length of the claim. The ore is described as a rich chalcopyrite. Fifteen carloads have been sent to the smelter. The average of the smelter returns was: gold, $35; silver, 5 oz.; copper, 15 per cent. to the ton. The copper returns are the highest obtained so far in the camp. No stoping has been done. A seven-drill compressor has been purchased and will soon be in operation.

St. Elmo. The St. Elmo, located in June, 1890, is now owned by the St. Elmo Gold Mining Co., having a capitalization of one million dollars. Of this stock nearly half is owned by the company as a treasury reserve. The president and manager is Frank C. Loring.

This claim is situated upon a strong vein, being the same vein upon which the Jumbo, Mountain View, Cliff and St. Elmo

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Consolidated are located. Development consists of a tunnel 170 feet long, a tunnel 90 feet long, and many open cuts. Work is being continuously prosecuted in the 170 foot tunnel at the lower and easterly end of the claim, and which will eventually give a depth of 600 feet on the vein. The ore found in these various workings and at the croppings on the surface shows values ranging from $5 to $50 per ton, gold, silver and copper. The value of ore in the face of the tunnel is now about $20 per ton. Development shows an increase of copper in depth. The company intends installing a complete power drill plant in the summer of 1896.

Indiana, Timber, Old Kentuck. Under the name of the Indiana Consolidated, the Indiana and Timber claims and a small fraction called the Old Kentuck are worked. The surface shews 20 feet of galena ore. Two tunnels have been run into the mountain. The No. 1, or upper drift, is 20 feet long, all in ore. The No. 2 is 100 feet below the No. 1. It is being driven to cross-cut the ledge at 65 feet. The owners confidently state that this is one of the biggest properties in the camp. The average of assay returns are 204 oz. silver, 12 oz. gold.

Jumbo. The Jumbo is the property of John A. Finch and M. R. Galusha, of Spokane. The Jumbo hill is a solid diorite mass and the Jumbo ledge makes a large surface shewing, the well known iron capping being of great width. On the 4th of March, the tunnel had 22 feet of ore in width with no hanging wall. From the tunnel to the surface there is 150 feet of stoping ground. Another tunnel can be drifted giving 240 feet of additional stoping ground, or a total of 400 feet, without shafts, hoists or pumps.

The ore runs from $16 to $18 per ton and is steadily improving. There are 800 feet of continuous croppings on the surface averaging seventy-five feet wide.

Gold King. The property of Mr. Stussi. A continuation of the large ore body described on the Jumbo, runs through this claim. There are 5 or 6 veins.

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Green Mountain. Very large ore shewings on the surface give very promising appearance of a mine. Owing to litigation this and several adjacent claims have not been opened up to any extent.

Morning Star. This claim is owned by Butte capitalists represented in Rossland by Mr. Pfunder. The surface capping is impregnated with copper which, takes the place to a large extent, of the iron which is one of the characteristics of the surface indications of the camp. Development will be pushed as the spring opens and machinery introduced as soon as required.

Silverine. Four shafts on this claim reveal 2 feet of ore. The average of a number of assays being $20.00. Work has been abandoned during the winter, but the proprietors intend pushing development in a short time.

Georgia. J. B. McArthur, E. J. Kelly and others own this claim. There are three veins, 5 to 8 feet in width. The average of a number of assays shews that the ore carries gold, 1 oz.; silver, 2½ oz.; copper, 3 per cent. to the ton. There are four shafts, and further development will be made in the spring. About 30 tons of shipping ore are on the dump.

North Star. Owners, E. J. Kelly, T. Stack, O. Jeldness. The veins running through the Georgia are believed to traverse this claim. A carload of mixed capping was sent to the Tacoma smelter; it realized $11.40 for the gold. There is from 1½ to 3 per cent. of copper and a considerable quantity of ore assays as high as $150 to the ton. Two shafts with a drift at a 56 feet level and several open cuts, constitute the bulk of development work to date.

Columbia, Kootenay, Tip-Top. The Trail Mining Co., of Chicago, have invested in these claims. The capital stock is $250,000, divided into 2,500 shares of $100.00 each. H. P. Mason, president, Chicago. A vein can be traced through the Columbia and Kootenay on to the Copper Jack ground. Surface development has exposed a promising vein on the Tip Top. Respecting the vein on the Columbia and Koot-

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enay, a cross-cut has been made 20 feet long, without revealing either wall. Smelter returns of ore shipped from these claims averaged fifty dollars. Tunnels and shafts have been opened at several points. To facilitate the prosecution of the adopted scheme of development, a large compressor plant is being bought in Chicago.

Commander, World. Owners, D. O'Neil, Wm. Lynch, W. D. McFadden. On the Commander there is 200 feet of surface cross-cutting and a 55 foot shaft. Over six feet of ore but walls are not yet found. On the World, a 22 foot shaft. Shipments to smelter of test lots of 400 and 500 lbs. yielded $4.00 to $40.00 gold, and 5 to 33 per cent. of copper. There are about 60 tons on the dump.

Palo Alto, San Joaquin. Mr. Bouche, one of the owners of these claims has given the following particulars. A vein 3 to 4 feet wide with well defined walls runs through the diorite and syenite formation. The ledge is cut by a large quartzite dyke, having a northerly course. The vein has been exposed for 350 feet, and to a depth of 31 feet by a shaft. Vein matter arsenical iron ore. Assays shew $13 to $48 in gold, as high as 3 per cent. of copper and a trace of silver to the ton.

Deadwood. The vein on this prospect runs north and south. A dyke of decomposed slate and quartz has been drifted 90 feet, disclosing several small stringers of ore. A vein 2 feet wide was met at fifty feet from the mouth of the tunnel on which a winze sixteen feet deep has been sunk. There is eight inches of clean ore at the bottom of this cut running $4.00 in gold, 300 oz. silver and 16 inches of ledge matter running 120 oz. silver, a trace of copper and 22 per cent. lead.

Crown Point, Hidden Treasure, White Swan. These claims belong to the Crown Point Mining and Milling Co. Capital stock, $1,000,000.00. P. Hickey, manager. The vein is 9 to 10 feet in width, and carries in gold 2 oz. and over; silver, 12 oz.; copper, 7 per cent. to the ton.

A shaft has been sunk to a depth of 140 feet; drifts have been driven at different levels. Two drifts are being pushed

TO MINE OWNERS

TRAIL DISTRICT.

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from the 140 feet level in the shaft, and a winze is being sunk from the 100 feet station on the 65 foot level to connect with the lower workings. All this working is in solid ore. Over 1,000 tons are on the dump ready for shipment when the Trail Creek Tramway Co. completes a spur to the mine.

Cour d' Alene Group. This group consists of four claims: The Wide West, the Daylight, the Major and the Cour d' Alene. A strong ledge is traceable throughout these four claims, and the top showings have given high assays. The Daylight and Major have been bonded to a strong representative Victoria company, who have contracted to drive a 100 feet tunnel on the ledge. The work is being done under the direction of Mr. Joseph Warner, M.E. The Cour d'Alene group has fine surface shewings and samples of ore have been assayed nearly forty dollars.

Errata—p. 45.—Description of R. E. Lee and Maid of Erin.—The first four lines of this description of these mines are erroneous. They should read "Owners Messrs. Dunn and Sullivan. They have been bonded to the R. E. Lee Mining Co. Capital stock, $500,000.00."

_____ other gentlemen residing in Rossland. The vein described in the article on the Homestead claim traverses this property. Apart from surface openings a shaft has been sunk to a depth of 35 feet, shewing iron on one side and copper on the other. Average value of the ore, gold $15.00 to $18.00, silver 12 oz. and 5 to 7 per cent. copper.

Homestake. The Homestake Gold Mining Company, (Ltd.,) of Vancouver, has recently acquired this property. W. G. Johnson, of Vancouver, is president, and D.W. Linnard,

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R. E. Lee, Maid of Erin. As these claims are under the same management, they are described together. They have been purchased recently by J. Stewart, P. Welch, and P. Larsen for $35,000.00. These gentlemen intend working the mine continuously. There are two paralled leads on this ground on both of which shafts have been sunk, which are numbered Nos. 1 and 2. Considerable drifting has been done at different levels from the No. 1 shaft. Assays varying largely have been obtained. Their average value will not be less than that usual in the camp, that is from $30.00 up to $40.00. Plant consists of a 20 h.p. boiler, a hoist, 2 steam drills and a No. 4 Watson pump.

Gopher. This claim is owned by Mr. Stussi and several other gentlemen residing in Rossland. The vein described in the article on the Homestead claim traverses this property. Apart from surface openings a shaft has been sunk to a depth of 35 feet, shewing iron on one side and copper on the other. Average value of the ore, gold $15.00 to $18.00, silver 12 oz. and 5 to 7 per cent. copper.

Homestake. The Homestake Gold Mining Company, (Ltd.,) of Vancouver, has recently acquired this property. W. G. Johnson, of Vancouver, is president, and D.W. Linnard,

of Rossland, is the local representative of the Board of Directors and general manager. This company has made rapid strides towards turning the Homestake from a first-class prospect into a mine. It lies on a vein running through the Gopher, R. E. Lee, Maid of Erin, Celtic Queen and other claims. Surface cuts reveal ore throughout the entire length of the claim. Solid ore has been exposed in every opening. Shafts and tunnels alike. It differs considerably from that on Red Mountain, being iron pyrites carrying galena. The yield in gold, silver, lead and copper has an average value of $30.00 per ton, although from one portion of the workings ore worth $100.00 a ton is found. This claim ranks among those classed as "shippers," as towards the end of January the company commenced shipping to the smelter. Machinery will be used as soon as it can be put into advantage.

Lily May. Messrs. J. F. Bowles and James Raymond, of Oregon, bought this property recently for $40,000.00. The ground is opened by a tunnel and three shafts. The tunnel about fifty feet long shews an ore body about 18 inches wide, assaying from 60 to 75 ounces in silver and $2 in gold. A shaft on this vein exposes more of the same character and value. The other shafts are on another vein. Assays up to $60 in gold have been obtained. There are indications of several ledges on the claim, and it is supposed that the largest ore body lies to the north of the work described. The new owners intend pushing development.

Zilor. Like the Lily May, the ore of this claim is galena. Four shafts varying from 30 to 70 feet in depth, shew large ore bodies averaging $30 in value.

Fairview. There are two strong leads on this claim on which shafts have been sunk, shewing one to be galena and the other pyrites. The owners intend prospecting with a diamond drill in the spring.

CHAPTER V.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MINING LAWS.

The legislation of the Province respecting mining is divided into two branches, viz., placer and vein mining.

Placer mining is dealt with in "An Act relating to Placer Mines," Chap. 26, Consolidated Statutes, and Amending Acts of 1894 and 1895. As there is no placer mining in the Trail Creek Mining Camp, further reference to it is unnecessary.

The laws governing vein mining are contained in "The Mineral Act, 1888," with amendments in 1889 and 1890, and "The Mineral Act, 1891," with amendments in 1892, 1894 and 1895.

Copies of the Placer Mining and Mineral Acts may be obtained from the Queen's Printer, Victoria, or any Gold Commissioner or Mining Recorder of the Province, on payment of 25 cents. Parties applying for any of these documents, are required to remit with application.

A useful "Handbook of British Columbia Mining Laws," has been compiled from the Mineral and Placer Acts, by Mr. J. H. Brownlee, of Victoria. Copies may be obtained from any stationer, or from Mr. Brownlee, for 25 cents.

A general knowledge of the laws relating to vein or quartz mining, may be obtained from the following:

1. Every person eighteen years of age, and every joint stock company shall be entitled to the privileges of a free miner upon the taking out of a free miner's certificate. The certificate may be procured from any Gold Commissioner or Mining Recorder, for one or more years, on payment of five (5) dollars for each year.

2. All the rights and privileges of a free miner lapse at the expiration of his certificate, unless he shall on or before the day following the expiration of such certificate obtain a new certificate.

3. Only free miners can hold any right or interest to or in any mineral claim, but a shareholder in a joint stock company and the holder of a mineral claim for which a certificate of improvements or a Crown grant has been issued, need not be a free miner.

4. Should any partner fail to keep up his free miner's certificate, his interest becomes vested in his partner's, *pro rata*, according to their former interests, on the said partners paying the free miner's certificate for the year.

5. No free miner is entitled to hold in his own name or in the name of any other person, more than one mineral claim on the same vein or lode, except by purchase, but such free miner may hold by location a claim upon any separate vein or lode.

6. A free miner may locate a mineral claim on land which may be used for mining, under the provisions of the Mineral Act, not exceeding 1500 feet in length by 1500 feet in breadth, in a rectangular form. Prior to 1892, the maximum measurements were 600 feet by 1500 feet. A claim must be located under the laws in force at the time of location.

7. Under the regulations at present in force, a located claim must be marked by two posts placed as near as possible on the line of the ledge or vein, and numbered 1 and 2, and a post at where rock in place, i.e., rock in place bearing valuable deposits of gold, silver or other minerals usually mined, except coal, has been found. These posts must be marked as provided in the Mineral Act. The line between posts Nos. 1 and 2 has to be marked in woodland by blazing trees and cutting underbrush, and in a locality where there is neither timber nor underbrush, by posts so that the line can be distinctly seen.

8. A free miner, having legally located a claim, is required to record such location with the Mining Recorder of the division

in which the claim lies, within fifteen days after location, if within ten miles of the Mining Recorder's office. One additional day is allowed for every additional ten miles, or fraction thereof.

9. A claim, to be legally held, must be developed to the value of at least 100 dollars, and an affidavit setting forth such development, recorded with the Mining Recorder before the expiration of each year from the date of record of claim; or 100 dollars may be paid to the Mining Recorder in lieu of development work, in each year.

10. A free miner's interest in a claim is a chattel interest, equivalent to a lease from year to year. The holder of a claim is entitled to all minerals which may lie within his claim, but he shall not be entitled to mine outside the boundary lines of his claim continued vertically downward, except on claims located prior to the Amendment Act of 1892. The lawful holder of a claim located prior to the Act of 1892, is entitled to all veins or lodes throughout their entire depth, the top or apex which lies inside the surface boundaries extended down vertically, although such veins or lodes may so far depart from a perpendicular in their course downwards as to extend outside the vertical side lines of the surface location.

11. Having complied with the following requirements, the lawful holder of a mineral claim is entitled to a certificate of improvements, unless an adverse claim shall have been filed in the office of the Mining Recorder.

(*a.*) Done or caused to be done work on the claim itself in developing a mine to the value of five hundred dollars, exclusive of all houses, buildings, and other like improvements.

(*b.*) Found a vein or lode within the limits of such claim.

(*c.*) Had the claim surveyed by a Provincial Land Surveyor.

(*d.*) Shall have posted on some conspicuous part of the land embraced in the survey, a copy of the plat of the claim and a legible notice in writing of his intention to apply

for a certificate of improvements, and shall have posted a similar notice in the Mining Recorder's office, and such notice shall contain:

(1.) The name of the claim;
(2.) The name of the lawful holder thereof;
(3.) The number of such holder's existing free miner's certificate;
(4.) His intention to apply for a certificate of improvements at the end of sixty days, for the purpose of obtaining a Crown grant;
(5.) The date of the notice.

(*e.*) Shall have filed with the Mining Recorder a copy of the surveyor's original field notes and plat.

(*f.*) Inserted a copy of such notice in the British Columbia Gazette, and in any newspaper published in the province and circulating in the district in which the claim is situate, for at least sixty days prior to such application, which insertion can be made at any time after the posting of the notice on the claim.

(*g.*) Filed with the Mining Recorder: (1.) Affidavit of the holder of the claim or his agent, in form provided in Schedule to the Act, setting forth that the applicant has complied with the particulars mentioned.

(*h.*) At the expiration of the term of said publication, provided no adverse claim shall have been filed with the Mining Recorder, the Mining Recorder shall forward to the Gold Commissioner the documents referred to above.

12. (*a.*) No adverse claim shall be filed by the Mining Recorder after the expiration of the period of publication stated; and in default of such filing no objection to the issue of a certificate of improvements shall be permitted to be heard in any court, nor shall the validity of such certificate, when issued, be impeached on any ground except that of fraud.

(*b.*) Any adverse claim to be filed shall be on the oath of the person or persons making the same, and shall show the nature, boundaries and extent of such claim, and all proceedings, except the publication of notice and making and filing the affidavit thereof, shall be stayed until the controversy shall have been decided by a court of competent jurisdiction, or the adverse claim shall have been withdrawn or waived.

(13.) After the issuing and recording of the certificate of improvements, and while such certificate shall be in force, it shall not be necessary to do any work on the claim.

14. On the granting and recording of a certificate of improvements, the holder thereof shall be entitled to a Crown grant of the claim.

(15.) A Crown grant of a claim may be obtained on payment to the Provincial Government of five hundred dollars in lieu of expenditure on the claim.

(16.) Application for a Crown grant shall be made to the Gold Commissioner within three months from the date of the certificate of improvements, and in default of such application having been made within such time, the certificate of improvements shall lapse and become absolutely void.

17. A Crown grant of a mineral claim located on any waste lands of the Crown, shall be deemed to transfer and pass the right to all minerals therein (excepting coal) found in vein lodes or rock in place.

18. A Crown grant of a mineral claim on lawfully occupied lands the right whereon to enter, prospect and mine all minerals (other than coal) has been reserved to the Crown, and its licensees, shall pass to the grantee all minerals therein (other than coal,) but such Crown grant shall expressly reserve the rights of such prior occupant. Where the mineral claim is on land lawfully occupied under a timber lease the Crown grant shall convey the surface and minerals (save coal) but shall reserve the timber.

19. A Crown grant of a mineral claim shall convey and be deemed to convey only the right to the use and possession of the surface of such claim for the purpose of mining and getting from and out of the claim the minerals contained therein, including all operations connected therewith, or with the business of mining, and the lawful holder by record of a claim shall during the continuance of his record be entitled to the same surface rights, and no others.

20. Any free miner may enter upon any Crown lands, or lands covered by timber leases, or any lands the timber whereon has been reserved by the Crown, to cut such timber as may be required for the purposes of the claim or claims worked by him alone, or by him in partnership with another or others.

MILL SITES.

A free miner may locate any unoccupied and unreserved Crown land not known to contain mineral, and not exceeding five acres, as a mill site.

Having complied with the provisions respecting locating, he shall be entitled to a lease for one year of the said land. If, during the continuance of the lease, he proves to the satisfaction of the Gold Commissioner, that he has put or constructed works or machinery for mining or milling purposes on the mill site of the value of at least five hundred dollars, he shall be entitled to a Crown grant of such mill site, upon payment of five dollars per acre for such land.

Crown grants of mill sites pass to the grantee all the surface of the land in said Crown grant, but shall expressly reserve all minerals under the land, and the right to the Crown and its licensees to enter and mine the said minerals.

APPENDIX.

Amendments have been made to the Mineral Act since the foregoing summary was placed in the printers hands, providing that failure on the part of the locator of a mineral claim to comply with any of the foregoing provisions of this section shall not be deemed to invalidate such location, if upon the facts, it shall appear that such locator has actually discovered mineral in place on said location, and that there has been on his part a bona-fide attempt to comply with the provisions of this Act, and that the non-observance of the formalities hereinbefore referred to, is not of a character calculated to mislead other persons desiring to locate claims in the vicinity.

Also, upon any dispute as to the title of any mineral claim, no irregularity happening previous to the date of the record of the last certificate of work shall affect the title thereto, and it shall be assumed that up to that date the title to such claim was perfect, except upon suit by the Attorney-General, based upon fraud. Respecting these amendments, the Victoria *Colonist* says: "The Bill is calculated to increase the confidence which mining men generally have in the fairness and effectiveness of the mining laws of British Columbia. * * Prospectors as a class are not methodical in their ways, neither do they see the importance of complying strictly and to the letter with every requirement of the law. The Bill in its present shape makes all reasonable allowance for these peculiarities or failings and makes it, as far as we can see, impossible for any dishonest speculator to deprive him, on account of any little irregularity, omission or informality, of any right which he has honestly acquired."

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